

## COMMERCIAL BAIT FISH SEINING REGULATIONS

These regulations are valid January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

- Seining Permit. Any person who has in possession more than 24 dozen minnows or nongame bait fish is considered a commercial operation.
- Live bait may not be imported into the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes without department authorization.
- Net and Trap Requirements: Bait fish may be taken with hook and line; or with seines no larger than 12 feet by 4 feet; or with minnow traps (the dimensions shall not exceed 24 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches); or with cast nets (maximum 6-foot radius) and dip nets (no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet). All unattended fishing devices must have the angler's name and phone number or name and ALS# attached to it.
- No portion of salmonids may be used for live or cut bait except the eggs of char, cisco, grayling, salmon or trout.
- Parts/pieces of bass, burbot (ling), channel catfish, crappie, northern pike, paddlefish, sauger, shovelnose sturgeon, tiger muskellunge, walleye, or yellow perch may be used as bait if edible portions are not wasted.
- Nongame fish may be captured for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201-12.7.206, and in accordance with standard regulations or exceptions for each water.
- Nongame fish that are freshly killed or have been preserved by freezing, salting or pickling may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial flies and lures. Heads and entrails of non-game fish may also be used as bait.
- Sculpins (genus *Cottus*) may not be used as bait (live or dead) in the Western Fishing District.
- Black bullheads, bluegill, carp, goldfish, green sunfish, pumpkinseed, rainbow smelt, sculpins, stonecats, yellow bullheads, shortnose gar, sturgeon chub, sicklefin chub, Northern redbelly dace, blue sucker and pearl dace may **not** be transported live or used as live bait in Montana.
- This license is not valid on Indian Reservation waters; for information, contact local tribal officials.
- Restriction within identified contaminated bodies of water:
  - Transportation of aquatic bait animals (including minnows) is approved from contaminated bodies of water in water from a noncontaminated source when allowed per fishing regulations. See attached. (ARM 12.5.701-2)

### LIST OF APPROVED SEINING WATERS

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be taken from the following waters:

#### **Western Fishing District**

- Ashley Creek
- Burnt Lake, Flathead County
- Clark Fork River (mouth of Flathead River to Thompson Falls Dam)
- Fish Lake, Lincoln County
- Flathead Lake (north half only)
- Flathead River (mouth to Highway 2 Bridge) plus adjacent sloughs
- Flathead River (Flathead Reservation boundary to confluence with Clark Fork River)
- Herring Creek (Little Bitterroot tributary), from May 15 to June 17 between Little Bitterroot Lake and the first road crossing (Pleasant Valley Road)
- Noxon Rapids Reservoir
- Upper, Lower and Middle Thompson Lakes

#### **Central Fishing District**

- Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
- Bighorn River -- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area
- Clarks Fork Yellowstone River -- Downstream from bridge at Bridger
- Kammerzell Reservoir
- Marias River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15
- Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam
- Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals
- Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream of the mouth of the Clarks Fork
- Teton River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15
- Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell) & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15

## **COMMERCIAL BAIT FISH SEINING REGULATIONS** (continued)

### **Eastern Fishing District**

**Streams** -- Nongame bait fish may be taken from all streams in the Eastern District **except** the following:

- Milk River and tributaries above Fresno Dam
- Beaver Creek upstream from Beaver Creek Reservoir
- Big Dry Creek and Little Dry Creek north of Highway #200 in Garfield County
- Hanging Woman Creek downstream from the Birney Road to its confluence with the Tongue River
- Otter Creek downstream from Highway #212 to its confluence with the Tongue River
- Lone Tree Creek and Fox Creek, tributaries to the Yellowstone River in Richland County
- Missouri River downstream from the mouth of the Milk River

All irrigation canals and ditches in the Eastern Fishing District are open year around for taking nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish may be taken from the following reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District:

<b><u>WATER</u></b>	<b><u>COUNTY</u></b>
Anita Reservoir	Yellowstone
Bainville Railroad Ponds	Roosevelt
Baker Lake	Fallon
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill
BLM Reservoirs	Blaine, Phillips
BLM Reservoirs in Willow Creek Drainage	Valley
Box Elder Reservoir	Sheridan
Buxbaum West Reservoir	Richland
Cole Ponds	Phillips
Dry Fork Reservoir	Blaine
Engstrom Reservoir	Sheridan
Frenchman Reservoir	Phillips
Gartside Reservoir	Richland
Grub Reservoir	Valley
Gut Shot Reservoir	Valley
Hedstrom Reservoir	McCone
Killenbeck Reservoir	Daniels
Kuester Reservoir	Richland
Lindsay Reservoir	Dawson
Medicine Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge	Sheridan
Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam	
Nelson Reservoir	Phillips
Petrolia Reservoir	Petroleum
Raymond Reservoir	Sheridan
Shoot Reservoir	Valley
Spotted Eagle Pond	Custer
Talcott Pond	Carter
Tongue River Reservoir	Big Horn
Tripple Crossing Reservoir	Valley
Valley Reservoir	Valley
VR2 Reservoir	Valley
Wards Reservoir	Valley
Whiteside Reservoir	Garfield
Whitetail Reservoir	Daniels
Wibaux Pond	Wibaux